(b) the names and addresses of NGOs running the working women's hostels in Assam and the grant/assistance sanctioned to each of them during this period;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more such hostels for working women in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No working women's hostel has been sanctioned in Assam during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Sanctioning of Working Women's Hostels to various Organisations is done on the basis of recommendations received from the State Governments/UT Administrations who make an assessment of its requirement in the proposed locations.

Scheme for Street Kids

1181. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme for the welfare of street kids;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this scheme will be implemented by Government directly or through NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has been operating, since 1992-93, a scheme called "Scheme for Welfare of Street Children". In order to make it broad based, it was reviewed and revised during 1998-99 and renamed as "An Integrated Programme for Street Children".

(b) The target group of the revised programme are essentially children without homes and family ties, i.e. street children and children specially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation such as children of sex workers and children of pavement dwellers. A wide

range of initiatives relating to street children etc. can now be supported under the revised programme including those relating to shelter, nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water, education, recreational facilities and protection against abuse and exploitation.

(c) The Scheme will not be implemented by Government directly. While the earlier Scheme for Welfare of Street Children was being implemented through Non Government Organisations (NGOs) only, by providing 90% of the cost of projects as grant-in-aid to them, under the revised programme, in addition to NGOs, the State Governments, Union Territory administrations, Local Bodies and educational institutions are also eligible for financial assistance.

Violation of Constitutional Provisions

1182. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry examines the violations of the provisions of Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution;

(b) whether Government are aware that Muslims as a social group (not as religious group) are subject to discrimination and unequal treatment in the matter of social justice in terms of Article 15 of the Constitution;

(c) whether Government are aware that the representation of Muslims as a social group is grossly inadequate in services; and

(d) what are the criteria to know whether a section is adequately or inadequately represented in services within the meaning of Article 16 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such case has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the provisions of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution, equality of opportunity should be provided to all citizens in matters relating to employment under the State and no discrimination shall be made on grounds only of religion, race, caste,